



# Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

June 2015



**Jodi Ross,**  
Town  
Manager

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

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**Hoedown at the Camps!**  
**Fundraising Event for**  
**East Boston Camps**  
**Saturday, June 13**  
**5:30 PM**  
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**Annual Strategic**  
**Planning Retreat**  
**Thursday, June 18th**  
**5:30 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**At Kimball Farm**

**Telescope Kick-off**  
**J.V. Fletcher Library**  
**Friday, June 26, 7:30 PM**  
**Page 5**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**   
community access television

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

## **Dear Westford residents,**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Memorial Day events throughout our community on May 24<sup>th</sup> to honor our veterans. Memorial ceremonies were held at the Senior Center, Freedom Park in Forge Village, Graniteville Monument, Byrne Ave dam at Nabnasset Lake, followed by the Honor Roll Reading on the Common, a parade from Roudenbush to the common, and several poignant speeches by our dignitaries. Thank you to Terry Stader, our Veterans Service Officer, for organizing these events and allowing us to come together as a community to remember and honor our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country.

Leo Agnew, Commander of the State Military Order of the Purple Heart, attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> to present our town with a Certificate of Acknowledgement for our Purple Heart Community Designation. This designation is an initiative started by the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart, a subdivision of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It provides communities an opportunity to show gratitude to all veterans, specifically those awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the United States and is reserved for members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed in combat and posthumously presented to the next of kin.



The Westford Council on Aging excitedly share in the news of their recent funding award of \$100,000 from the Cummings Foundation. The CoA and staff are looking forward to these funds providing new opportunities for the center's Transportation and Nutrition/Wellness Programs, as well as outreach to those in hardship situations, and assistance with our Food Pantry. Pictured from L-R front row Jennifer Claro, COA Director, Joyce Cederberg, Cameron Friends Board, Joan Greenwood, Cameron Friends Bd, Back row L-R Richard Sevryn Vice President, Cameron Friends Bd., Jodi Ross, Town Manager, Helena Crocker, CoA Chair, Ed Greenwood, President, Cameron Friends Board and John Mangiaratti, Assistant, Town Manager.



**(continued on next page)**

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

Please see the invitation below from the Westford Remembers Memorial Fund for their upcoming unveiling of the Westford Knight Preservation Project and Westford Knight Sculpture on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. on Depot Street.

WESTFORD



REMEMBERS

*Memorial Fund*

*The Westford Remembers Memorial Fund*  
would like to invite the public to the unveiling of the

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**WESTFORD KNIGHT PRESERVATION PROJECT  
& WESTFORD KNIGHT SCULPTURE**

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**Saturday June 13th, 2015 at 10 am**



Please join us at our annual **Strategic Planning Retreat** which is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm – 8:30 p.m. The topics to be discussed will include:

**12 North Main Street** – The 12 North Main Street Task Force will describe the current status of the abandoned industrial site, including contamination and structural concerns, applications for grants and other funding, the foreclosure process, the town meeting vote, and encourage discussion of ideas to help establish a vision for future reuse.

**New Center Fire Station/Combined Dispatch/Future Use of Current Fire Station Site** – Provide information on the new Center Fire Station and Combined Dispatch facility. Seek input from residents and board/committee members regarding needs for new replacement facility on current center fire station site.

**Pedestrian Safety Committee** – Discuss sidewalk and other pedestrian safety issues facing our town. Help prioritize sidewalk needs. Discuss snow removal from town sidewalks including necessary equipment and resources needed. Discuss possible town-wide survey for help in gauging resident interest in constructing new sidewalks.

**Town Farm Building and Property** – Discuss newly formed Town Farm Property Task Force who is charged with developing a plan for the buildings and property. Seek resident input to determine the future of the buildings and the site.

There will also be several “booths” with information ranging from our town building facility maintenance assessment study, library feasibility study, Economic Development Committee, infrastructure repair schedule (roads/dams/bridges), Energy Committee initiatives, Community Preservation Act, Recreation master plan, Agricultural Commission initiatives and perchlorate remediation. (continued on next page)



The Westford Farmer's Market will begin this month starting on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and continuing every Tuesday until October 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will be able to visit the market to enjoy the fresh, locally grown produce, along with wines, and handmade arts and crafts. For more information on the vendors this year, please click the Sustainable Westford image to the right.



In your June tax bill mailing, you will find an insert which includes links to surveys for the Recycling Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, and the Board of Selectmen seeking ways to improve our communication with our residents.

Please join me in welcoming Carol Gumbart, our town's new Conservation/Resource Planner - the position formerly held by Bill Turner. Carol has extensive municipal experience as a Conservation Administrator and I am excited to have her join our town.

Darren MacCaughey, our Director of Environmental Services, and a town employee for the past 16 years has accepted a new position in the town of Wayland. Darren has been a tremendous asset in the Westford Health Department, we are sad to see him go, but we wish him great success in his new position in Wayland.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Ray Riddick, a community volunteer who passed away on May 24, 2015. Please see Ray's obituary here: [Ray Riddick](#). Ray volunteered for many different agencies throughout his life, and most recently was one of our Westford representatives on the Nashoba Valley Technical High School Committee.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Bylaw Review, Capital Committee, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Finance Committee, Public Works Initiative Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Ross".

Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



*Westford Board of Selectmen with State Representative, James Arciero  
at last month's Apple Blossom Parade*

## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### HEAT STRESS

The Cameron Senior Center will be opened for extended hours during heat waves. Please call ahead at 978-692-5523.

#### To avoid heat stress this summer:

- Use head protection (hats, umbrellas)
- Stay inside during hottest time of day
- Avoid exertion
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Take cool showers or baths
- Wear light weight & light color clothing

#### Symptoms to be aware of:

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Throbbing headache
- Rapid Heartbeat



Westford Senior Center

### CAMERON GRILL NIGHTS

Thursdays, June 18th and July 23th from 4:00 - 6:30 PM.

Burgers and Hot Dogs served, please bring a salad or dessert to share.

The cost is \$2.00 per grill night. (Grill closes at 6:00 PM). Volunteers needed for clean-up.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels clients are now offered a choice of five special diets.

Along with the traditional Meals, a special diet with a doctor's authorization is available.

Let us assist you Monday through Friday by delivering meals to your door around noontime.

Call 1-800-892-0890 to register.

Volunteer drivers wanted, call 978-399-2330.

### VOLUNTEER/ACTIVITIES

Please Join our Team! We are always looking for new Volunteers. If you are interested, please give Katie a call at 978-399-2330 or send her an Email at [krussell@westfordma.gov](mailto:krussell@westfordma.gov).

Areas and programs that are looking for more volunteers:

**Fitness Room:** Multiple shifts available

**Cameron Closet Sales Clerk:** Seeking shifts Thursdays 12 PM - 3 PM

**Meals on Wheels Drivers:** A rewarding way to give back to the community.

Each route takes about an hour to deliver food to the door of the Meals on Wheels clients.

**Newsletter Volunteers:** Seeking helpers to fold the newsletters.

**Salad Bar Helper:** To cut the vegetables, set-up and clean-up the salad bar.

Thursdays and Fridays during the summer.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website at:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).

## J.V. Fletcher Library

### One Library, Three Summer Reading Programs and Trillions of Stars.

**Sign up now, and all through the summer, for one of our three Summer Reading Programs at the Library.** There's one for Children, one for Teens and Tweens and one for Adults. All the programs are a continuous spree of summer fun via ongoing programs, prizes and raffle drawings. Children will get to: attend Harry Potter's birthday party; swoon to tunes by folk singers and a comic rock band; laugh to the antics of puppets; enter the Mesozoic era with life-size "real" dinosaurs and so much more. Teens and Tweens can look forward to creating comic book and graffiti art, learning Improv and cheering on "Runaway Robots." Adults will win a Kimball's ice cream cone, enough said. This summer is going to be a blast at the J. V. Fletcher Library and you have the Friends of the Library to thank for it. They support all of our summer programming, supply needs and purchase all of our fabulous prizes.

Speaking of having a blast at the Library, the Library is thrilled to announce that in just a few weeks we will begin circulating an Orion Starblast Telescope! **Don't miss our kickoff program on Friday, June 26th at 7:30 p.m.** This free Library program, for all ages, starts off in the Library's ground floor Meeting Room with a presentation by a member of the Aldrich Astronomical Society (the rest of the Library will be closed.) After the presentation we'll venture out to the Town Commons to discover what objects lie within reach of this amazing telescope. The Aldrich Astronomical Society will also award door prizes to a few lucky participants. Space themed activities (generously funded by the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library) will engage those not actively using the Telescope. The Orion Starblast Telescope was generously donated to the Library by Materion Precision Optics and UPS and will be maintained by the Aldrich Astronomical Society.



[WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

## Water Department

### Pleasant Street and Graniteville Road Distribution System Improvement Project

The Water Department will be replacing water mains on sections of Graniteville Road and Pleasant Street this summer. The water mains in these locations have been identified in the Water Department's Master Plan to be replaced in order to improve water system reliability and fire protection. The project will include replacing the water main on **Graniteville Road** from **Main Street** to **Patriot Lane**, and on **Pleasant Street (Route 225)** from **Pine Street** to **Patten Road**.

Construction activities are expected to begin the week of **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Construction work hours are usually **7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. Traffic will be detoured on Pleasant Street during work hours. One way traffic will be maintained on Graniteville Road. Residents along the project route will be allowed access to their homes. **No construction activities are scheduled for weekends or major holidays.**

The initial phase of the project will include installing temporary bypass water main which will provide temporary water service to all houses along the project route on Graniteville Road, and some houses along Pleasant Street. This will be the water service to each house for approximately 3 to 4 weeks while the new water main is installed, tested, disinfected, and placed into service. Once the bypass pipe has been installed and impacted houses have been connected to it, construction of the new water main will begin. Construction activities will include installation of new water mains, hydrants, valves, and replacing house services. Once installation of the new water main is complete, the water service to each house will be permanently connected to the new water main. The new service will include a new curbstop that is installed approximately five feet into the yard or driveway depending on where the existing service is located. All excavated trenches will be repaved this year, and all lawn and sidewalk areas disturbed will be repaired. A final curb-to-curb overlay will most likely be completed in the spring 2016.

For project construction plans and any updates visit the Westford Water Department website at [www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water).



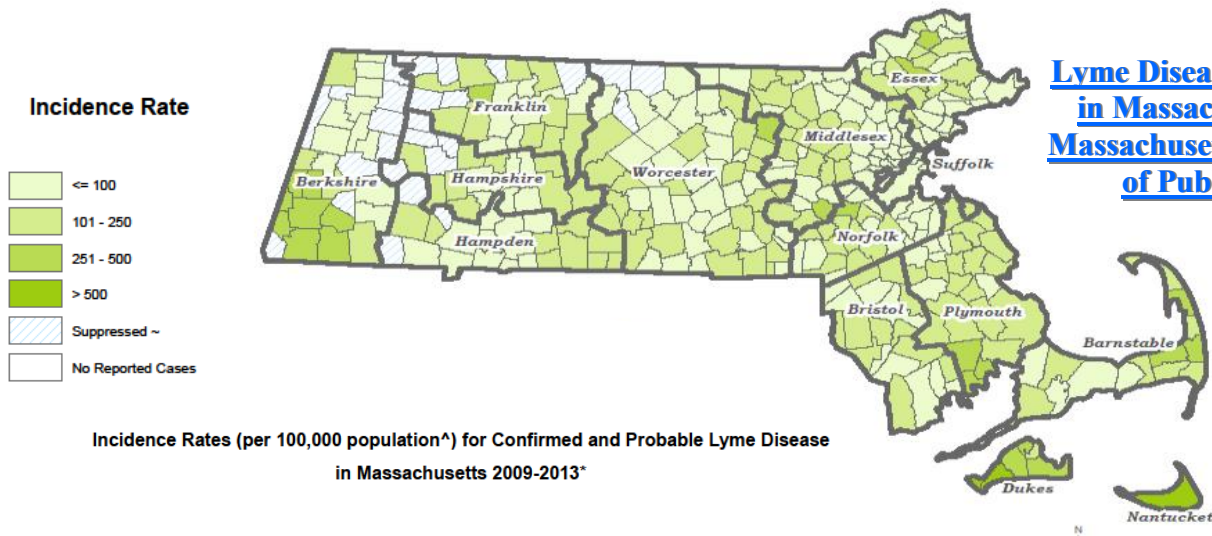
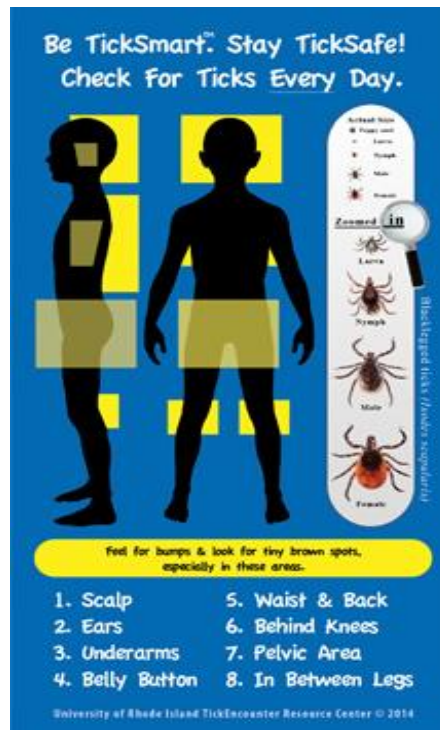
## Health Department News

### Tick Illnesses and Prevention

**Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses** are a great public health concern. It was also identified by residents in our recent community assessment as their top concern. Although cases continue to rise, it is important to note that the illnesses are preventable! The simplest way to protect yourself is to remove a tick before it has a chance to transmit disease-causing pathogens. **Ticks can attach anywhere, in particular, they will find spots like: the back of your knee, around waistbands, under armpits or any other constricted place.** Anytime after you have been in tick habitat you should thoroughly check your entire body and remove attached ticks immediately. Once attached, ticks **DO NOT** wash off in the shower.

Additionally watch for early signs and symptoms of tick-related illness and be sure to report to your doctors if you have cause for concern. Untreated, these diseases can cause a number of health problems, but prevention methods have proven to be effective.

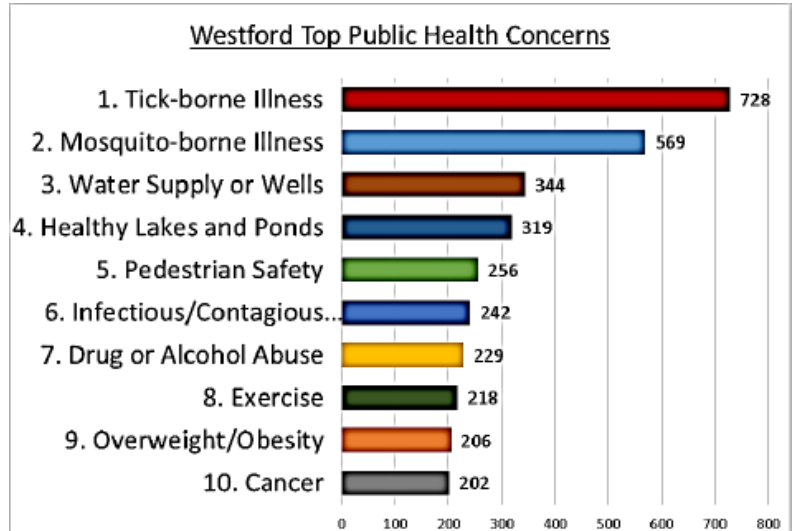
Please go to [www.westfordma.gov/health](http://www.westfordma.gov/health) page and link to the tick and mosquito borne illness tab for more information. You can test your knowledge about tick-borne diseases and learn how to prevent them by taking our survey at [www.tinyurl.com/MiddlesexTickSurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/MiddlesexTickSurvey). The survey contains answers to questions about ticks, tick-borne illnesses, and prevention strategies for residents and their pets. Information can also be found at [www.tickencounter.org](http://www.tickencounter.org).



## Health Department News (continued)

### COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Special thanks for all who took the time to answer our survey!! In total over 1200 were returned! We will be analyzing the data and reporting results in the near future. Information will be featured on our website and at various locations including the library. The information obtained will be very valuable in planning for services and programs in the future. The top five public health concerns identified by survey participants were:



### RECREATIONAL CAMPS LICENSED

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all recreational, day, and overnight camps for children must be inspected and licensed by the local board of health in the city or town where the camp is located.

The primary purpose of the regulations and inspection is to ensure that the camp provides an appropriate environment to protect the health, safety, and well being of the campers. The regulations also establish minimum sanitary and housing standards to protect the children at camp.

At the Health Department, we inspect and check all camp policies, safe structures and equipment, background checks on all staff and volunteers, adequate sanitary facilities, sufficient supervision of campers, appropriate plans in case of medical emergencies, natural and other physical disasters, injury and fire preventions plans, and immunizations.

The proposed 2015 licensed and inspected Recreational Camps for Children located in Westford, are:

1. One Stop Fun - Powers Rd.
2. The Camp at Nashoba Valley - Powers Rd.
3. Westford Swim and Tennis Club Camp - Littleton, Rd.
4. Triple Threat Academy, Westford Academy
5. Marcus Lewis Day Camp Program - East Boston Camps
6. Emily Piper of Rumphius - Meadowbrook Farm

Any other programs, clinics, or listed camps are **not** inspected by the Westford Health Department.



## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **STUDENTS, SUMMER AND SUBSTANCE USE**

With most college students on their way home for the summer, and high school students soon on their summer hiatus, the issue of alcohol and other drug use is on the minds of academic professionals and parents alike. There is evidence to suggest that drinking related occasions increase during the summer for both high school and college students.

#### **High school students who choose to drink during the summer are influenced by three primary factors:**

- Continuation of a pattern begun during the school year
- The absence of academic and/or athletic responsibilities
- For graduated seniors, the perception of the rite of passage from high school and home, to college and campus living

#### **For college students returning home for the summer, factors that affect their drinking or other drug use during the summer break include:**

- The continuation of a pattern of use begun on campus, similar to high school students
- A return to parental regulations that are sometimes less stringent than previously enforced prior to college
- Sense of personal independence and decision making that comes with living away from home and parents

There is an old adage in the substance use disorder treatment field that, *what causes a problem is a problem when it causes problems*. Summertime can represent a high-risk time in the life of a student who chooses to drink or use other substances, especially if that use is prompted by the continuation of an established pattern, a need to fit in, a way to cope with boredom, or a belief that alcohol and/or other drugs are a prerequisite for having fun. If there are problems related to use, then that use may become a problem.

- Article from the Caron Center Communication.

## Recycling Commission

### REMINDERS FROM THE WESTFORD RECYCLING COMMISSION

- Recycling totes (64-gallon, green, wheeled) are \$50. Send check to Recycling Commission, Town Hall.
- Earth Machine composters are \$45. Call 978-692-6986.
- Bulk item stickers are now \$5.
- Residents are allowed a maximum of three (3) barrels and/or bags of trash per week at curbside.
- On your recycling day, your trash will be picked up ONLY if there is also a recycling container at curbside.
- Trash and recycling containers should be separated by several feet.
- Free "RECYCLE" stickers for any sturdy barrel can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office.



Remember! In Westford, we pay both trash and recycling haulers an annual fee for collection. However, Westford is charged an EXTRA \$69 for every ton of trash collected. There is NO extra charge for recycling tonnage on top of the hauler's fee. Please lower your trash output by reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling all you can! Detailed information about recycling in Westford can be found at [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).

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## Agricultural Commission

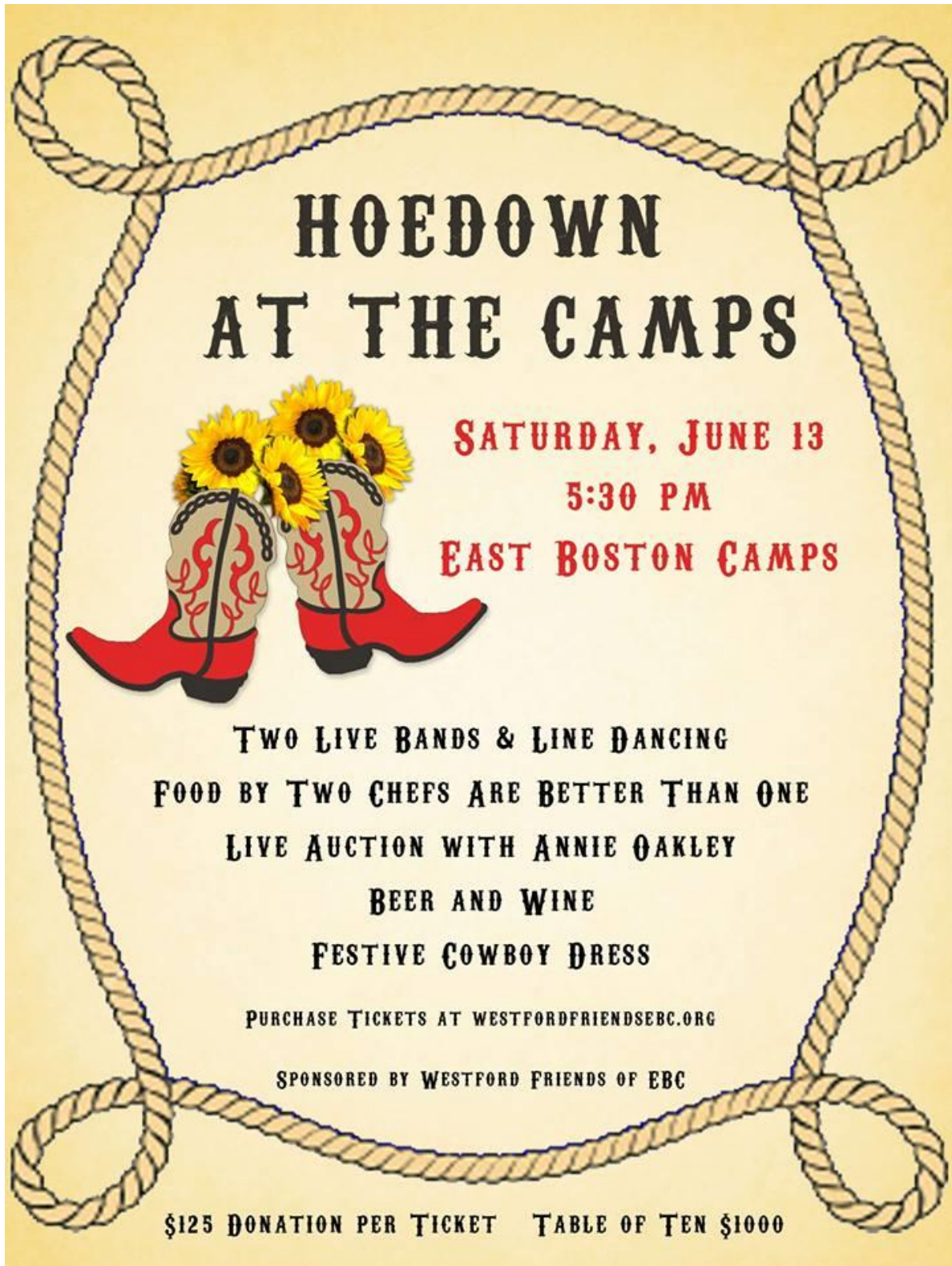
### Judge a Photo Contest

The Westford Agricultural Commission is hosting its 1st Annual "Grown Here in Westford" Photo Contest and needs you to help judge the entries. Drop by their booth at the FPCU's Strawberries and Arts Festival being held from 10-4 on June 20 on the Town Common. Winners will be named in 18+ and Under 18 age categories. No experience necessary, just cast vote for whichever photos you like best. For complete rules and details, visit the [AgComm page](#) on the Town website.




*Westford Community Gardens -  
recent deer fence installation*

## Friends of East Boston Camps



**HOEDOWN  
AT THE CAMPS**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 13  
5:30 PM  
EAST BOSTON CAMPS**

**TWO LIVE BANDS & LINE DANCING  
FOOD BY TWO CHEFS ARE BETTER THAN ONE  
LIVE AUCTION WITH ANNIE OAKLEY  
BEER AND WINE  
FESTIVE COWBOY DRESS**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT [WESTFORDFRIENDSEBC.ORG](http://WESTFORDFRIENDSEBC.ORG)**

**SPONSORED BY WESTFORD FRIENDS OF EBC**

**\$125 DONATION PER TICKET    TABLE OF TEN \$1000**



## Housing Authority

### "Housing Hero", Chris Pude recognized

Chris Pude, Executive Director of the Westford Housing Authority received a "Housing Hero" award from Massachusetts Housing Partnership at an awards ceremony on June 11, 2015. Chris is a Westford resident who worked for the Westford Housing Authority for 27 years, and retires on June 30th of this year. Since 2008, Chris provided a "single point of contact" for all affordable housing issues for the Town and assisted Town committees to fund and construct hundreds of units of low and moderate income housing.

We congratulate Chris on her dedication and achievements and wish her well in her retirement.



*Pictured with Chris Pude is Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary in the state's Executive Office of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).*



*After being recognized as a "Housing Hero" Chris Pude delivers acceptance remarks at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership Housing Institute on June 11, 2015.*

## Memorial Day Ceremonies 2015



*Westford Academy Grey Ghost Marching Band.*



*Guest speaker, Westford resident,  
USAF Lt. Colonel Ken Mierz.*

*Photos courtesy of Westford resident Tracy LeBlanc.*